

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 7-8, and 11-14 are objected to because of minor informalities. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Drawing sheets 1/7, 2/7, and 3/7 are objected to for improper margins under 37 CFR 1.84(g).

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Koehler for his careful review of present patent application.

Claim Rejections:

Formality Objections

Claims 4, 7-8, and 11-14 are amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. Applicant believes the amended claims are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1 to 15 are rejected for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contain subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the specification fails to provide antecedent basis for an aluminum-zinc alloy bath or coating containing between 25% and 70% by weight aluminum as recited in claims 1, 6, and 10. Applicant has amended specification paragraph [00038] to read, "For example, Borzillo clearly teaches that such an aluminum-zinc bath, and the resulting aluminum-zinc coating applied to a hot-dip product, may contain between 25% and 70% aluminum by weight." Amended paragraph [00038] provides antecedent basis for the language recited in claims 1, 6, and 10, and accordingly, Applicant believes claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance.

In consideration of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests Examiner Koehler to examine this application and promptly pass claims 1-15 into issue.

The above constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Official Action. Applicant believes that no new matter has been inserted into the present

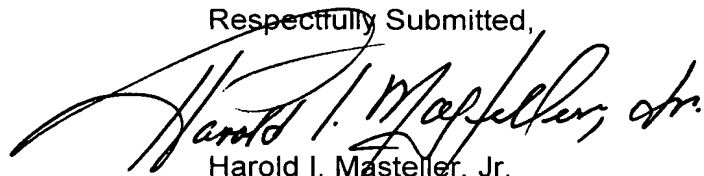
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application by way of Applicant's amendments to the claims. If the Examiner finds that this response fails to overcome the outstanding issues, or if he believes the response opens new issues, the Applicant respectfully asks Examiner Koehler to telephone the number listed below to discuss any remaining issues before the Examiner mails a further communication in this matter.

It is believed that no additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this response. However, if any additional fees are due, Applicant respectfully asks the Commissioner for Patents to charge such additional fees to Deposit Account No. 02-2225.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Drawing sheets, 1/7, 2/7, and 3/7 are enclosed with this response. The drawings are labeled "Replacement Drawing Sheets" in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84(c).